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PTO/SB/21 (09-06)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

4

Application Number

10/759,973

Filing Date

January 16, 2004

First Named Inventor

Richard A. Hogle

Art Unit

1754

Examiner Name

Ngoc Yen M. Nguyen

Attorney Docket Number

M03A445

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

☐

Fee Transmittal Form

☐

Fee Attached

☒

Amendment/Reply

☐

After Final

☐

Affidavits/declaration(s)

☐

Extension of Time Request

☐

Express Abandonment Request

☐

Information Disclosure Statement

☐

Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)

☐

Reply to Missing Parts/
Incomplete Application

☐

Reply to Missing Parts
under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

☐

Drawing(s)

☐

Licensing-related Papers

☐

Petition

☐

Petition to Convert to a
Provisional Application

☐

Power of Attorney, Revocation

☐

Change of Correspondence Address

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Terminal Disclaimer

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Request for Refund

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CD, Number of CD(s) _____

☐ Landscape Table on CD

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After Allowance Communication to TC

☐

Appeal Communication to Board
of Appeals and Interferences

☐

Appeal Communication to TC
(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)

☐

Proprietary Information

☐

Status Letter

☒

Other Enclosure(s) (please identify
below):

an Itemized Certificate of Mailing,
a Response to Restriction
Requirement (2 pp.), and Return
Receipt Postcard

Remarks

It is not believed at this time that any additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any additional fee required by this submission or credit any overpayment.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name

The BOC Group, Inc.

Signature

Printed name

David A. Hey

Date

July 20, 2007

Reg. No.

32,351

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July 20, 2007

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Attorney Docket: M03A445

Serial No.: 10/759,973

Filed: January 16, 2004

Confirmation No.: 8329

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908-771-1729

Telephone Number

Itemized Listing of Attachments:

A Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/21), a Response to Restriction Requirement (2 pp.), and a Return Receipt Postcard

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Richard A. HOGLE, Donald P. SATCHELL Jr., Robin CLOUGH,
Robert DAWSON, David GAWLOWSKI

Serial No.: 10/759,973

Filed: January 16, 2004

Examiner: Ngoc Yen M. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 1754

Attorney Docket: M03A445

Confirmation No.: 8329

Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DISPOSAL OF HYDROGEN FROM
FLUORINE GENERATION, AND FLUORINE GENERATORS INCLUDING
SAME

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action dated 22 June 2007 applicants make the following remarks.

The Examiner has required a restriction between the following groups of claims:

Group I, claims 1-15, 17 drawn to an apparatus for disposal of hydrogen in a fluid, classified in class 422, subclass 177+; and

Group II, claims 16, 18 drawn to a process for disposal of hydrogen in a fluid, classified in class 423, subclass 210+.

Appl. No. 10/759,973
Amdt. dated 07/20/2007
Reply to Office Action of 06/22/2007

With respect to the above restriction requirement, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-15, 17 directed to an apparatus for disposal of hydrogen in a fluid.

This restriction requirement is traversed on the following grounds.

The subject matter of the two groups noted by the Examiner are related, i.e., both relate to disposal of hydrogen in a fluid. Such relationship suggests that there would be no undue burden on the Examiner in examining both sets of claims at the same time.

Because the life of a divisional application begins to run from the filing date of the parent application, all such related applications will necessarily expire on the same date. Therefore, it is unreasonable to continue to apply restriction practice to applications, for what appears to be solely the purpose of collecting additional filing and prosecution fees.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file divisional applications at a later date, on inventions not elected in this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 20, 2007

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